

MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION
GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING

State Capitol, Room 152

July 24, 2009

Draft Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the Grants Committee of the Montana Public Defender Commission was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Committee Chair Tara Veazey.

Commissioners Present

Caroline Fleming, Miles City, Mike Sherwood, Missoula; Tara Veazey, Helena; Stephen Nardi, Kalispell; Jennifer Hensley, Butte; Kenneth Olson, Great Falls; and Richard (Fritz) Gillespie, Helena

Other Interested Parties

Randi Hood, Chief Public Defender; Harry Freebourn, Administrative Director; Scott Crichton, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU); and Judge Sheldon Singer, representing the American University evaluation team

Purpose of Committee

This committee has had informal communications with staff regarding grant opportunities. It has been difficult to find time to devote to this committee with so many other projects in progress.

Current Responsibilities/Activities

Chief Hood reported on current grant activity by the staff. The Montana Board of Crime Control received federal stimulus funds, and OPD submitted two sub-grant proposals. One is a request for \$15,000 for training on scientific issues, and the second is for \$62,000 for the file maintenance project. She is optimistic that the funding requests will be seriously considered.

Training Coordinator Eric Olson was successful in obtaining a grant to send four OPD attorneys to Washington, D.C. for a conference on dependent neglect issues and children's advocacy. The Youth Justice Council has been funding attendance at the annual Juvenile Defender conference. Mr. Olson has also received small grants to send attorneys to conferences in Missoula and Savannah, Georgia.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Old Business/New Business (*Action Items)

There were no action items.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.